

What is claimed is:

1. A method of generating electricity utilizing oil shale, the method comprising:
  - locating an electrical power generating facility that includes a steam turbine
  - power generator in close proximity to an oil shale deposit;
  - removing oil shale from the oil shale deposit in bulk form;
  - providing the oil shale to a burn container;
  - providing supplemental fuel to the burn container such that hydrocarbon
  - contained in the oil shale are combusted to generate thermal energy;
  - using the thermal energy generated by the burn container to heat water to
  - generate steam;
  - providing the steam to the steam turbine power generator such that the steam
  - turbine power generator generates electricity.
2. A method as in claim 1, and wherein the oil shale comprises bulk oil shale.
3. A method as in claim 1, and wherein the oil shale comprises rubblized oil shale.
4. A method as in claim 1, and wherein the oil shale comprises pulverized oil shale.
5. A method as in claim 1, and further comprising:
  - recovering potash generated by combustion of the oil shale hydrocarbons.
6. A method as in claim 1, and further comprising:
  - returning spent rock resulting from combustion of the oil shale hydrocarbons
  - to the oil shale deposit.
7. A method as in claim 1, and further comprising:
  - preheating the water prior to utilizing the thermal energy generated by the
  - burn container to heat the water to generate steam.

8. A method as in claim 7, and further comprising:  
preheating the water utilizing a parabolic solar reflector,
- 5 9. A method as in claim 7, and further comprising:  
preheating the water utilizing a dual parabolic reflector that includes a first  
parabolic surface having a focal point and a second parabolic reflecting surface  
having the same focal point as the first parabolic reflecting surface, the water being  
passed through the common focal point of the first and second parabolic reflecting  
10 surfaces.
10. A method as in claim 9, and wherein the first parabolic reflecting surface has solar  
collectors mounted thereon for generating electricity from solar energy captured by  
the solar collectors.
- 15 11. A method as in claim 1, and wherein the supplemental fuel includes propane.
12. A method as in claim 1, and wherein the supplemental fuel includes garbage.
- 20 13. A method as in claim 1, and wherein the supplemental fuel includes sawdust.
14. A method as in claim 1, and wherein the supplemental fuel is obtained from a source  
in close proximity to the oil shale deposit.
- 25 15. A method as in claim 14, and wherein the supplemental fuel comprises ethanol  
derived from corn grown in close proximity to the oil shale deposit.
16. A method as in claim 1, and further comprising:  
utilizing exhaust heat from the power generating facility to heat the oil shale  
30 in the burn container.

17. A method as in claim 1, and further comprising:  
utilizing exhaust heat from the power generating facility to pre-heat the oil shale prior to its introduction to the burn container.

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18. A method as in claim 1, and further comprising:  
providing supplemental fuel to the pre-heat the oil shale prior to its introduction to the burn container.

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19. A system that generates electricity utilizing oil shale, the system comprising:  
an electrical power generating facility that includes a steam turbine power generator located in close proximity to an oil shale deposit;  
a burn container that receives oil shale from the oil shale deposit;  
supplemental fuel that is provided to the burn container such that hydrocarbons contained in the oil shale are combusted to generate thermal energy;  
and  
a water source that provides water that is heated utilizing the thermal energy generated by the burn container to provide steam, the steam being utilized by the steam turbine power generator to generate electricity.

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20. A system as in claim 19, and wherein the oil shale comprises bulk oil shale.

21. A system as in claim 19, and wherein the oil shale comprises pulverized oil shale.

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22. A system as in claim 19, and further comprising:  
a parabolic solar reflector that preheats the water.

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23. A system as in claim 19, and further comprising:

a parabolic solar reflector that preheats the water, the solar reflector including  
a first parabolic surface having a focal point and a second parabolic surface having  
5 the same focal point as the first parabolic surface, the water being passed through the  
common focal point.

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